

REMARKS

Previous claims 2, 3, 5, 10-12 and 17-26, and newly added claims 27-40 are currently under consideration. Claims 19, 22-24 and 26 are amended to correct typographical errors which, for the claims other than claim 19, resulted in improper claim dependency. New claims 27-40 correspond essentially to the claims previously under consideration, except the new claims are limited to a nucleic acid sequence that corresponds to the coding sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1. These coding sequences were presumably searched by the Examiner when she searched for SEQ ID NO:1, for the Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Therefore, it is believed that no new search or consideration is required for the newly added claims. The amendments and the new claims are fully supported in the specification. Claims 6-8 and 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 17, 2, 3, 10, 11, 19 and 25 are directed to a purified nucleic acid that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a complete complement thereof, and to detection methods using the nucleic acid.

Claims 18 and 5 are directed to a purified nucleic acid that consists of a fragment of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 (wherein said fragment hybridizes specifically with a nucleic acid molecule having a sequence that is completely complementary to SEQ ID NO: 1), or a complete complement thereof.

Claims 21, 20, 22-24 and 26 are directed to a purified nucleic acid that comprises a sequence that hybridizes specifically with a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a complete complement thereof, and to detection methods using the nucleic acid.

Claims 27-34 are directed to a purified nucleic acid that comprises the coding sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a complete complement thereof, and to detection methods using the nucleic acid.

Claims 35-40 are directed to a purified nucleic acid that comprises a sequence that hybridizes specifically with a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the coding sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a complete complement thereof, and to detection methods using the nucleic acid.

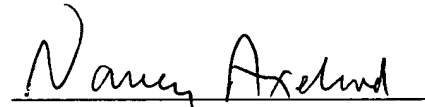
The responses to the various grounds of rejection provided in the Reply filed November 5, 2004 also apply to the newly added claims.

In view of the preceding arguments and amendments, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Should any additional fee be deemed due, please charge such fee to our Deposit Account No.22-0261, referencing docket number 31978-202420 and advise us accordingly. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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